

Offered Only Familiar Red Propaganda Formula

Khrush Did Nothing to Ease Tension, Sen. Dodd Insists

By SEN. THOMAS DODD

All of us share the hope that in some way the Khrushchev visit to the United States has improved the prospects for peace.

Whether it has or not, only time can tell. But a cold, hard look at the realities of the past few weeks indicates certain conclusions.

The joint communique issued by Khrushchev and President Eisenhower at the close of their talks was filled with vague generalities and platitudes.

During his tour, Khrushchev rejected every opportunity to demonstrate any real interest in lessening tensions. Every time he was asked an honest question about the real causes of tension in the world or about the real sources of our distrust and hatred of communism, he chose either to evade the question or to reply with a deceitful bluster and bombast.

Contempt

He showed contempt for the intelligence of our people by trying to paint communism as a system of free elections, religious freedom, peaceful relations with neighbors, and brotherly love.

To a world which waited for some small but significant advance toward true disarmament, Khrushchev offered only the familiar formula of Red propaganda which evades the central question of adequate inspection and control.

Certainly the hopes and expectations of those advocating the Khrushchev visit were disappointed.

It was hoped Khrushchev would be impressed by the military strength of this country but he didn't even allow us to show him any of this strength.

It was hoped that he would be impressed by the obvious prosperity and well-being here but he refused in viewing these things through

NOTE: Soon after President Eisenhower invited Soviet Premier Khrushchev to visit our country, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D., Conn.) delivered from the floor of the Senate a ringing denunciation of the visit, which attracted nation-wide attention. Now that Mr. K. has come and gone, the Scripps-Howard newspapers asked the Senator to give his present appraisal of that visit.

The sight of thousands of workers driving their own automobiles home from work struck him only as an example of terrible waste. He pointed out repeatedly that nothing he had seen here surprised him since he has long been aware of America's great industrial productivity.

Boastful

And he never missed an opportunity to make the boast that Russian production was growing at several times the rate of our own and that Russia would soon overtake us and pass us by.

It was hoped that Khrushchev would try to get a representative picture of America but he vetoed most of our plans for such a trip and insisted on a schedule that provided a maximum of public appearances in the news and television centers of the nation. It was clear from the outset that Khrushchev was here to sell and not to buy.

Thus, the gains of the visit, if any, were slight indeed. What of the dangers?

A prominent reporter who accompanied Khrushchev said that the reaction of the American people to him was at first skeptical, but that as the days passed they "forgot about politics" and began to find Khrushchev rather appealing as a personality. If so, this must be considered as a significant victory for Khrushchev.

No one, least of all the communists, expected Khrushchev to "convert" any sub-

stantial number of Americans. They have never been able to make progress where there is free competition of ideas. The best they can hope for is to make free peoples forgetful of the basic evil of communism and indifferent to the danger.

Victory

If Khrushchev has succeeded in pushing our hatred of communism into the background and substituting for it a picture of an amiable, friendly, human, colorful personality, then he has indeed scored a significant victory and freedom has suffered a corresponding defeat.

A study of the visit reveals another pattern that may bode ill for the free world. During the early days of Khrushchev's visit, the public reaction was restrained and skeptical. He was asked questions that were to him unpleasant and Ambassador Lodge was following a policy of setting the record straight concerning Khrushchev's inaccuracies.

When Khrushchev responded to these irritations with a calculated demonstration of anger and bullying, when he threatened to go home and spoke of his rockets, there was a sudden and obvious change in our reaction. Our people leaned over backwards to be cordial. The "truth policy" was canceled by our Government. The official hosts were

coaxed. Unpleasant questions were avoided.

Tactics

Khrushchev knew that after years of seeking an invitation to visit this country, he achieved it thru threats over Berlin. He now knows that he succeeded in changing the climate of his visit here thru the same tactic.

This may be the chief impression he will take back to Moscow: an impression that will strengthen his belief that the free world can be coerced and pressured into yielding from its declared positions.

Add to this the undoubted increase in Khrushchev's prestige, stature and, consequently, power at home. Add also the opportunity we have given to communist propagandists to dishearten and discourage our allies in the captive nations and in other places by painting Khrushchev's visit here as a triumphal tour implying acceptance of him and recognition by the United States that perhaps communism is in the ascendancy. All these factors add up to a major victory for communism.



SEN. DODD
Criticism strikes again